



# THE MINISTRY LAUNCHES IN GALILEE

**MATTHEW 4:12-25; MARK 1:14-45;  
LUKE 4:14-44; 5:1-16 & JOHN 4:43-54**

This study examines the pivotal events that launched Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. After His baptism, temptation, and early encounters in Judea and Samaria, Jesus steps forward and His ministry erupts — preaching, healing, calling, and always moving in purpose.



## JESUS LAUNCHES HIS MINISTRY

**Jesus Preaches in Galilee (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15; John 4:43-45)**

**Key Points:**

- After John's imprisonment, Jesus steps forward into Galilee — not back.
- He returns in the power of the Spirit; His reputation spreads throughout the region.
- Matthew connects this to Isaiah's prophecy — a great light dawning in dark territory.
- His message is urgent: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17, NKJV)

**Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son (John 4:46-54)**

**Key Points:**

- A royal official humbles himself and begs Jesus to heal his dying son.
- Jesus challenges his faith before granting the miracle.
- The official trusts Jesus' word alone — without seeing any result — and his son is healed at that exact hour.
- Key Insight: Faith that acts on the word before seeing results is the faith that moves heaven.

## THINK ABOUT

- **God's Timing:** John was arrested before Jesus began preaching. How does God's plan move forward through opposition in your own life?
- **Nobleman's Faith:** He trusted Jesus' word before seeing any result. Where is God asking the same trust from you right now?
- **Familiarity:** Can anything about your history with church or religion limit how you receive Jesus today?





## REJECTION, THEN A RADICAL CALL

### Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth (Luke 4:16–30; Matthew 13:53–58; Mark 6:1–6)

#### Key Points:

- Jesus reads Isaiah 61 in the synagogue and declares it fulfilled — today, in their hearing.
- Initial wonder turns to fury when He implies God's grace extends to Gentiles, not just Israel.
- They drive Him out and attempt to throw Him off a cliff. He passes through them untouched.
- Key Insight: Familiarity is one of the greatest barriers to faith. Those who knew Him longest received Him least.

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## THE FIRST DISCIPLES ARE CALLED

### Four Fishermen Follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11)

#### Key Points:

- Jesus sees Simon, Andrew, James, and John — fishermen doing ordinary work on an ordinary day.
- His call is personal and direct: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19, NKJV)
- They leave immediately — no negotiation, no conditions, no delay.
- Key Insight: Jesus did not call the qualified. He called the willing and then qualified them.

### The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:1–11)

#### Key Points:

- After a fruitless night, Jesus tells Simon to launch into the deep and let down the nets.
- Simon responds: "Nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." (Luke 5:5, NKJV)
- The catch is so enormous the nets begin to break and both boats begin to sink.
- Peter falls at Jesus' knees: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man!" — holy awe, not celebration.
- Key Insight: A genuine encounter with Jesus produces humility, not a highlight reel.

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## THINK ABOUT

- **Peter's Nevertheless:** What situation in your life requires a 'nevertheless at Your word' — faith in spite of circumstances?
- **Leaving Everything:** The disciples left immediately. What might Jesus be asking you to release to follow Him more completely?
- **Called and Unworthy:** Peter felt deeply unworthy yet Jesus still called him. How does 'do not be afraid' speak to where you are today?

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## JESUS TEACHES AND HEALS WITH AUTHORITY

### Jesus Teaches with Authority (Mark 1:21–28; Luke 4:31–37)

#### Key Points:





- In the Capernaum synagogue, Jesus teaches and the people are astonished — He speaks as one with authority, not as the scribes.
- A man with an unclean spirit cries out: "I know who You are — the Holy One of God!"
- Jesus rebukes the spirit: "Be quiet, and come out of him!" — it obeys immediately.
- Key Insight: The demons recognized Jesus before the religious leaders did.

### **Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law and Many Others (Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)**

#### **Key Points:**

- At Peter's house, Jesus heals his mother-in-law of a high fever — she rises immediately and serves.
- That evening the whole city gathers at the door. He heals many and casts out demons.
- Matthew connects this to the fulfillment of Isaiah 53:4: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."
- Key Insight: Jesus heals in homes, not just on platforms. He cares about the person behind the ministry.

### **THINK ABOUT**

- **Authority vs. Religion:** The scribes quoted others; Jesus spoke on His own authority. What is the difference between religious habit and genuine encounter with Jesus?
- **Private Healing:** Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law in a home, not a crowd. How does knowing Jesus works in private moments change how you seek Him?
- **Fulfilled Prophecy:** Matthew links Jesus' healing to Isaiah 53. How does this deepen your trust in Scripture?

### **PRAYER, PURPOSE, AND COMPASSION**

#### **Jesus Preaches Throughout Galilee (Matthew 4:23-25; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:42-44)**

#### **Key Points:**

- Before the crowds can find Him, Jesus rises before daylight and goes to pray alone.
- When disciples find Him, He insists on moving to other towns rather than returning to the crowd.
- His pattern is established: preach, heal, pray, move. He follows purpose, not popularity.
- Key Insight: Before the crowd could find Jesus, He was already alone with the Father.

#### **Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy (Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16)**

#### **Key Points:**

- A leper approaches, falls on his face, and worships: "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
- He did not doubt Jesus' power — only His willingness. Rejection had taught him he was not worth being touched.
- Jesus reaches out and touches him first — before speaking the word of healing.





- "I am willing; be cleansed." — immediately the leprosy leaves him. (Matthew 8:3, NKJV)
  - Key Insight: Jesus touched the untouchable before the miracle came. Compassion precedes power.
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## THINK ABOUT

- **Prayer Before Purpose:** Jesus prayed before the crowds could find Him. What does your prayer life look like before the demands of your day begin?
  - **Touching the Untouchable:** Jesus reached out to someone no one else would touch. Who in your world is waiting for someone to say 'I am willing'?
  - **His Pattern:** Jesus preached, healed, prayed, and moved — never settling in comfort. What is God calling you to move toward that you may be avoiding?
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## LIFE APPLICATION

- **Respond Immediately:** The disciples didn't delay or negotiate. This week, identify one area where God has been calling you and take one concrete step toward obedience — not a plan, an actual step.
  - **Go Deep:** Jesus told Peter to launch into the deep after a night of failure. Where has discouragement kept you in the shallow water? The catch is always in the deep. Launch back out this week.
  - **Touch the Untouchable:** Intentionally reach out this week to someone who feels overlooked, excluded, or invisible. You don't need all the answers — just show up and be willing.
  - **Protect Your Prayer Life:** Before the crowds could find Jesus, He was already alone with the Father. Prayer first. Purpose second. Platform third. Build that into your week — early, intentional, and protected.
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## CONCLUSION

The ministry of Jesus does not ease into action — it erupts. In this stretch of His early Galilean work, we see the full shape of what He came to do: preach the kingdom, call ordinary people to extraordinary purpose, heal the broken, and touch the untouchable. His pattern is clear — preach, heal, pray, move — and it is the same pattern He calls every one of His followers to embody. The question is never whether Jesus is willing. The question He puts back to us is the same one He put to every person He encountered in Galilee: Will you follow?

